



# U.S. COAST GUARD



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#### OPERATIONAL DRESS UNIFORM UPDATE

I'm providing an update to the ongoing distribution of the new Operational Dress Uniform (ODU). As previously indicated in ALCOAST 372/03, distribution of the ODU began in late July '03. The process of outfitting our entire Active Duty and Reserve workforce will ultimately involve the distribution of over 230,000 uniforms by our Uniform Distribution Center (UDC) at Cape May, New Jersey. They will also have a working stock of about 30,000 uniforms on hand. In addition, we expected to have ODUs available for sale through our Exchange System by the beginning of the new year. To date, the UDC has accepted the delivery of more than 35,000 ODUs from the manufacturer, and we have delivered about 6,000 uniforms to field units.

In an effort to provide a better fitting uniform for all of our members, we made a decision early in the acquisition process to contract for the production of both even and odd size uniforms (e.g. 38, 39, 40, 41, etc.), each in several different lengths/cuts (S, M, L, XL, etc.). There will be 82 different size tops and 27 different size trousers available. Needless to say, producing thousands of copies of more than 100 different clothing items is a major undertaking. At the current production rate of approximately 20,000 uniforms per month, we expect to have amassed a working quantity of the most common core sizes at the UDC by mid-October 2003. Once this level of inventory is achieved, distribution to the field will accelerate significantly to approximately 5,000 uniforms per week.

During this initial period of simultaneous inventory-building and shipping, the staff at the UDC is screening all outstanding orders, and is making every effort to ship complete orders to those units whose requirements coincide with the sizes that are currently in stock. These shipments have largely been to smaller units, based on the immediate availability of certain sizes. Shipments to larger units will gain momentum by the end of October.

Based on the fourteen-month acquisition and distribution schedule, the transition to the ODU uniform is on track and is scheduled for completion by the end of FY04. Once distribution to the Active Duty and Reserve forces is complete, we will begin distribution to the Auxiliary. We track our progress towards meeting these goals on a weekly basis. I will provide periodic updates as we reach major milestones. Unit POCs should continue to direct all ODU questions to Mr. Robert Gitschier, Uniform System Manager (G-WPM-1), 202-267-0730.

Regards,

*RADM Kenneth T. Venuto*  
Ken Venuto

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